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PRESENT—*cont.*

Slater, C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. S. H.
Smith, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. E. C.
Soundara Pandian, Mr. W. P. A.
Sreshta, Mr. M. S.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Srinivasan, Rao Bahadur R.
Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Stanes, Mr. F. J.
Subbarayan, Dr. P.
Subrahmanya Chetti, Rao Sahib P.
Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
Thomas, Mr. Daniel.
Thorne, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. J. A.
Venkatachala Reddiyar, Mr. K. C. M.
Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.
Zamindar of Kirlampudi, The.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram, The.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Law and Order—General

Political Meetings organized by Government Officials to combat the Civil Disobedience Movement.

* 121 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether Government officials are required to hold political meetings to combat the civil disobedience meetings, and, if so, the principles, if any, the Government have laid down for such officers in organizing and conducting such meetings?

A.—Government officials are not required to hold political meetings to combat Civil Disobedience, but discretion is given to them to adopt such measures of counter-propaganda as they find suitable.

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" With regard to the answer that discretion is given to adopt such measures of counter-propaganda as they find suitable, may I know whether Government have issued any circular that discretion should be exercised in such and such manner or in certain respects? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—" Government have issued instructions saying that discretion should be used and that force should be used to the very minimum."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether a copy of it will be placed on the table of the House? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—" It is a confidential circular."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" Arising out of the answer given by the Home Member, may I know where the question of minimum force comes in? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—" I was under the wrong impression that my hon. Friend asked the supplementary question in connexion with the next question. I find now it is different."

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Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" The question relates to political meetings and the answer also relates to that."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " With regard to discretion, Sir, all that we said was that they should use their influence to combat the Civil Disobedience Movement. Government consider it to be a lawless movement whose object is to bring chaos and anarchy in the country. It is the duty of the officials to use their healthy influence to combat such a movement."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I know if counter-propaganda consists in the using of minimum force? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " As I said, I thought my hon. Friend asked about next question."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar :—" May I know if reports of meetings so held are sent to the Government? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " I do not think Government officials have convened any meetings to put down the Civil Disobedience Movement."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" Is the hon. the Home Member not aware that such meetings are held in East Godavari? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " In what month, may I know? "

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" In any month during the Civil Disobedience Movement? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " In connexion with the no-tax campaign certain meetings were held and in these meetings some resolutions of loyalty were passed. I do not think there is anything wrong."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" Under a misapprehension the Home Member answered with reference to the using of force."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " I have explained that."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" You were always thinking of force? "

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" In view of the two answers that were given thinking that they were with regard to force, may I know what is the discretion that is allowed to the Government servants with regard to propaganda that they should do in order to combat the Civil Disobedience Movement? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " They must use their influence in maintaining law and order in the country."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Is it not a fact in Godavari, Revenue officials have been holding political meetings? "

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"I don't think they have been holding political meetings."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Have the officers done their duty with regard to such instructions?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"Yes."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know if the Government will be pleased to lay on the table the order issued by Government to their officers in asking them to use their discretion?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"No, Sir. They are confidential."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Is it a fact that Government have sent an order to that effect?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"We have passed orders to the effect that it is the duty of the Government servants to use their utmost influence to see that this movement is put down as early as possible."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"If what the hon. Member said is a summary, what objection is there for the Government to publish those instructions in seriatim and place it on the table of this House?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"These instructions are confidential."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Does it contain any other information?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"It is against public interest to publish them."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"What is the nature of the propaganda that is permitted to Government officials?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"It is left to their discretion."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"Even in cases where propaganda are not carried on, is it a fact that reports are being sent about meetings held?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"I am thankful to the hon. Member for the information."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"How does the Government justify their action in including Judicial officers also in the category of officers to carry on the propaganda?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"It is the duty of the Judicial officers also to maintain Law and Order."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"What steps have Government taken in cases where Government have acted against their instructions?"

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"There have been no such cases."

Mr. V. P. Narayanan Nambiyar:—"Is the Government aware of the fact that this propaganda, instead of putting down the Movement, will be an incentive to it?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"I do not think so."

Alleged beating of toddy shop picketers in Kambakone village.

* 122 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that on or about the 28th April 1932 four picketers peacefully picketed a toddy shop in Kambakone village near Baindur in South Kanara;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the police and the sub-inspector belaboured the picketers severely with lathis and the picketers fell senseless;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that water was sprinkled on them and given them to drink;

(*d*) whether after they became conscious they were again beaten by the police;

(*e*) whether when they were so belaboured again the fisherwomen who had gathered unable to bear the sight cried out for help; and whether the people, that had gathered, beat the police with cadjan sticks to save the boys from being killed; and

(*f*) whether the four picketers were given any medical assistance; if so, into which hospital they were admitted and whether the hon. the Home Member would be pleased to place a copy of a statement of the medical officer that treated them regarding the number and the nature of the wounds?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member apparently has in mind an incident at the Uppunda toddy shop in Nandavana near Byndoor of Coondapoor taluk on 27th April. On that day 4 Brahman youths and 4 fisher youths picketed the shop in company with a small crowd. They were not only exhorting the public not to drink, but were restraining customers from entering the shop.

(*b*) The facts are reported to be as follows:—

The Sub-Inspector warned the volunteers and the crowd that they formed an unlawful assembly and repeatedly ordered them to disperse. The volunteers refused to move. The Sub-Inspector pushed two of the volunteers away and gave them a few cuts with his cane on the legs. They sat down and feigned inability to stand. The constables did not beat anybody.